event take place outside. “People like being outside unless there’s a really big draw inside,” he said. “So if you’re going to have an intellectual seminar type talk, it may not draw people.”

Ideas for new events, according to Ferrick, often come from within departments. “Some departments like to look at what they’re doing and say, ‘Well let’s do something different,’” Ferrick said. “With the insect petting zoo, that’s pretty much the same every year. They bring out the bugs and many of the faculty from that department show up, because they just love the kids.”

One of the more recent additions is a series of biology-related events organized by the Biological Sciences Undergraduate Program, according to Associate Dean Joelle Presson. “So, the way we did it, in biology, was we got a lot of the faculty who teach lower level biology together,” she said. “Everybody kind of offered their interesting ideas. I took those ideas and distilled them and chose the ones I thought would be most effective.”

Since creating these events three years ago, Presson said that these activities have not significantly changed. “Once we got it running, I just implement what we’ve been doing,” she said. The challenge, then, is to find volunteers to manage these activities on Maryland Day. Fortunately, Presson has not had problems finding suitable undergraduate volunteers. “The really interesting thing is how readily and easily the undergraduates just go with it,” she said. “They immediately get what the point is, they come on the day and they take care of it.”

Students are also given the opportunity to create and run Maryland Day events, according to Ferrick. Indeed, groups such as Alpha Chi Sigma and the American Chemical Society have organized activities in the past. “I read them the riot act because there are little children around and they like to blow things up, but they do it on their own,” Ferrick said.

These children and their families are, according to Ferrick, the target audience for Maryland Day. “I’d say most of this is geared to get families to come here,” he said. “That doesn’t mean we’re excluding students on campus, because a lot of this stuff can be flat out fun.”

There are a few students every year who miss out entirely. “Sometimes students actually don’t go to Maryland Day,” he said. “It’s hard to miss, considering what’s going on, but sometimes they don’t roam around, which I think is sad.”

Other departments also host exhibits, including a performance on the lawn outside the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, lower left, and a basketball meet-and-greet with the team and coaches, below with President Loh.